

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NAPLES 00837 241644Z

63

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-04 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05

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R 241630Z JUL 75

FM AMCONGEN NAPLES IT

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 4519

INFO AMEMB ROME IT

AMCONGEN MILAN IT

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E.O. 11652: N/A; TAGS: EINV, IT

SUBJECT: RICHARDSON-MERRELL; REACTION TO FIRINGS

REF; NAPLES 805 (JULY 17)

1. SUMMARY: ON JULY 22 ABOUT 1,000 WORKERS FROM RICHARDSON-MERRELL AND OTHER COMPANIES TOOK PART IN ORDERLY DEMONSTRATION DOWNTOWN NAPLES TO PROTEST FIRINGS BY RICHARDSON-MERRELL AND TO DEMAND GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION.

POLITICAL PARTY LEADERS ON THE CITY COUNCIL USED THE OCCASION TO ISSUE STATEMENT STRESSING IMPORTANCE OF PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY IN SOUTHERN ITALY AND CONDEMNING DISMISSALS BY RICHARDSON-MERRELL.

DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRIALIST UNION FABIANI DISAGREES WITH ACTION

PAGE 2 RUFLSKA5172 C O N F I D E N T I A L

TAKEN BY RICHARDSON-MERRELL AND BELIEVES ACTION ERODES GOOD WILL PAINSTAKINGLY NURTURED BY US COMPANIES PAST SEVERAL YEARS. END SUMMARY.

2. APPROX 1,000 WORKERS AND SYMPATHIZERS MARCHED THROUGH DOWNTOWN NAPLES ON JULY 22 IN PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION TO PROTEST R-M'S DIS-

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PAGE 02 NAPLES 00837 241644Z

MISSAL OF 381 EMPLOYEES AND TO DEMAND INTERVENTION BY THE PREFETTURA.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE DEMONSTRATION INCLUDED EMPLOYEES AND SYMPATHIZERS FROM R-M AND THOSE OF OTHER US FIRMS EXPERIENCING LABOR PROBLEMS SUCH AS GENERAL INSTRUMENTS. OFFICERS AT THE PREFETTURA RECEIVED A DELEGATION AND SENT TELEGRAMS TO THE MINISTRIES OF LABOR, INDUSTRY, AND BUDGET ASKING FOR "IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION." THE DELEGATION ALSO ASKED THE PREFETTURA TO AUTHORIZE EMPLOYEES OF R-M TO DISPENSE DRUGS ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS TO HOSPITALS AND PHARMACIES, BUT THIS PERMISSION WAS DENIED.

3. IN SUPPORT OF THE DEMONSTRATION THE CITY COUNCIL ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE STATING IN PART THAT (A) THE PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY IN SOUTHERN ITALY HAS BECOME OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REGION, (B) PHARMACEUTICAL FIRMS HAVE ESTABLISHED IMPORTANT LABORATORIES WITH MODERN EQUIPMENT AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNICAL SKILLS, (C) R-M'S DECISION TO FIRE NEARLY

PAGE 3 RUFLSKA5172 C O N F I D E N T I A L

400 TECHNICIANS IS "ABSURD", AND (D) A WAY MUST BE FOUND TO CONTROL FIRMS WHICH HAVE SUCH A GREAT IMPACT ON SANITATION AND THE GENERAL HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE POPULATION. THE PRESS RELEASE ENDS BY STATING THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD BE WILLING TO ASSUME ALL RESPONSIBILITIES IN BACKING A CONSORTIUM TO TAKE OVER R-M.

4. THE DIRECTOR OF THE INDUSTRIALISTS' UNION FOR THE PROVINCE OF NAPLES, DR. GIUSEPPE FABIANI BELIEVES THAT THE SITUATION HAS REACHED AN IMPASSE BUT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT INTERVENE AT THIS TIME. HE ALSO SAID HIS OFFICE HAD DONE ITS BEST TO ADVISE R-M'S MANAGEMENT ON THE PROPER COURSE OF ACTION BUT THIS WAS IGNORED BY THE FIRM. HE DEPLORES R-M'S FAILURE TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT "ITALIAN SENSIBILITIES AND WAY OF DOING THINGS." IN HIS OPINION, THE FEBRUARY 14, 1975 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT AND R-M IN WHICH R-M PROMISED NOT TO MAKE ANY PERSONNEL CUTS OR PLACE EMPLOYEES ON CASSA INTEGRAZIONE FOR SIX MONTHS HAS BEEN VIOLATED BY R-M.

5. IN TELCON WITH ME YESTERDAY, JULY 23, LOCAL R-M PRESIDENT HERNANDEZ SAID THAT A NAPLES COURT HEARD HIS PLEA TO REOCCUPY HIS OFFICE, BUT OWING TO OTHER PRESSING COURT WORK THE HEARING WAS REMANDED TO JULY 29. ON THAT DATE THE COURT WILL ALSO TAKE UP THE EMPLOYEES' CLAIM THAT THE DISMISSAL LETTERS ARE ILLEGAL AND SHOULD

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PAGE 03 NAPLES 00837 241644Z

PAGE 4 RUFLSKA5172 C O N F I D E N T I A L

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NAPLES00837
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750255-1154
From: NAPLES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750725/aaaaawsn.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NAPLES 805
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RICHARDSON-MERRELL: REACTION TO FIRINGS
TAGS: EINV, ELAB, IT, RICHARDSON-MERRELL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006